



Environmental Stewardship Program

Louisiana Pacific

Success Story

Materials Reduction

Background

Louisiana Pacific (LP) is located in Middlebury, IN (Elkhart County) and employs 90 Hoosiers. LP was originally in Performance Track from 2005-2008 and is one of the original members in the Environmental Stewardship Program (ESP). They remained an ESP member after Performance Track was discontinued in 2008.

Project Implementation

LP utilizes an offset rotogravure printing process to finish some of their trim mouldings. On the small printers, the ink is applied to a twenty-inch wide engraved cylinder and then transferred to a twenty-inch wide offset roll. The ink is directly transferred from the offset roll to mouldings that pass through lanes in a guide block. The moulding is manually fed into the guide blocks. Any ink that is not transferred to the moulding is washed off the offset roll with a solvent. The solvent is discarded after enough ink has contaminated the solvent that the color of the moulding is affected by the contaminated solvent.

The employee handling the moulding noted that the lanes in the middle of the guide blocks were used much more often than the outer lanes. The offset roll width was reduced to six inches and the printer was modified to reduce ink splashing due to the smaller roll width. The project was fully completed in November 2012 and resulted in a hazardous materials use reduction of 1,082 gallons.

Results

The transfer roll width reduction decreased the waste ink and solvent generation by more than 70%. It was estimated that this project would be implemented by June of 2012. The project was fully completed in November 2012 but still resulted in a Hazardous materials use reduction by 1,082 gallons.

Cost Savings

LP estimates an annual cost savings of \$20,000 due to the implementation of this process modification. For more information on the project, contact Mr. Tim Keenoy.

Facility Contact

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